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Report on United Nations system support for the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme

I. Introduction

1. The present report contains a summary of the support of the United Nations system agencies working in Africa extended to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which is transitioning to the African Union Development Agency, for the period April 2018–January 2019. It covers support for the implementation of African Union priorities at regional and subregional levels, including those articulated in the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that context, the report contains an overview of the assistance provided through the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) within the framework of the renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA). It also provides an overview of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) support to the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism, and selected African Union decisions pertaining to the infrastructure programme of the African Union Development Agency.

II. United Nations system support in the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa

A. Joint Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa secretariat support

1. Retreat and nineteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa

2. During the period under review, the Joint RCM-Africa secretariat organized a programming retreat of the Mechanism in Nairobi. The resulting joint cluster workplans (2018–2019), which currently guide the work of RCM-Af-

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rica, were contextualized within the framework of PAIDA, informed by regional and subregional priorities. The joint secretariat also organized the nineteenth annual session of the Mechanism under the theme "United Nations system support to the African Union in winning the fight against corruption: a sustainable path to Africa's transformation", in partnership with the regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group teams for Eastern and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa. To enhance communication within and between clusters, the secretariat has developed an electronic information-sharing and collaboration platform, which is slated to be launched soon.

2. The African Union and United Nations reforms, and the Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa

3.   Major decisions pertaining to institutional reforms of the African Union were made by the Assembly of the African Union at its thirty-second Summit, held in Nouakchott from 25 June to 2 July 2018, and at its eleventh extraordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 17 and 18 November 2018. Meanwhile, the Secretary General has proposed key actions and recommendations to reposition the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

4.   Regarding the African Union reforms, the following are of particular relevance to RCM-Africa: (a) reorganization of the structure and portfolios of the senior leadership of the African Union Commission; (b) approval of the mandate of the African Union Development Agency following the decision made in January 2017 to transform the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency; (c) institutional reform of the African Peer Review Mechanism; and (e) establishment of an effective division of labour among the African Union, regional economic communities, member States and continental organizations. In May 2018, the General Assembly adopted resolution 72/279 in support of the Secretary General's reform agenda to reposition the United Nations development system as a key partner in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In the resolution, the General Assembly, under the heading "revamping the regional approach" reaffirmed the role and functions of the United Nations development system at the regional level, including the regional economic commissions and the regional teams of the United Nations development system and underlined the need to continue to make them fit for purpose in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also emphasized the need to address gaps and overlaps at the regional level and endorsed a phased approach to revamping the United Nations development system at the regional level.

3. Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa response to the ongoing African Union and United Nations reforms

5.   In October 2018, the RCM-Africa secretariat commissioned two studies, one on strengthening subregional coordination in support of the African Union and NEPAD and the other on enhancing monitoring and evaluation in RCM-Africa. The first study was aimed at leveraging the momentum of the African Union and United Nations reforms for more coordinated and fit-for-purpose support at the subregional level, while ensuring effective linkages with national and regional-level United Nations coordination mechanisms. The objective of the second study was to establish a framework that would allow the mechanisms to track progress and results achieved in implementing agreed priority activities in support of the African Union and its organs. The draft study reports were presented for review at two ad hoc experts group meetings held in Nairobi in December 2018, and are now being finalized.

6.   On 10 December 2018, ECA held a joint meeting with the regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group for Eastern and Southern Africa and the regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group for West and Central Africa in Addis Ababa. The overall objective of the meeting was to reach a common understanding on the implications of the ongoing United Nations reform initiatives on the functionality of the entities and to deliberate on

strategies for deepening collaboration. The meeting agreed on modalities for follow up and implementation of the first phase of the regional optimization actions of the United Nations reforms, which informed the preparation of a joint workplan. The meeting also agreed to integrate and harmonize the seven strategic priorities of the African Union[1], the seven strategic initiatives of the regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group[2], PAIDA, the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the United Nations-African Union Development Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

B. Selected activities of the Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa clusters[3]

1. Sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industry, trade, agriculture and agro-processing and regional integration

7. During the reporting period, the cluster played in the development of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, through support extended to the African Union. Currently, the cluster is engaged in the preparatory work for the launch of the second phase of the AfCFTA negotiations. This phase will cover investment, competition policy, intellectual property rights, and e-commerce. Additionally, with support from the European Union, the cluster is helping countries develop AfCFTA national implementation strategies. The cluster actively participated in the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Blue Economy, held in Nairobi from 26 to 28 November 2018, on the theme "The blue economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". During the event, it organized several events, which yielded outcomes to guide future activities. The cluster has also been actively supporting the African Union digitization agenda, including digital trade and digital identification.

8. The cluster targeted 40 countries in Africa in the first phase of the Regional Action Plan (2012–2018) of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, in response to the challenges faced by national statistical systems, including those in Africa, in producing quality statistical data on food and agriculture. In that regard, the cluster has produced guidelines and handbooks, training material, technical working papers and carried out technical assistance and country assessments. It has also been involved in providing "accelerated technical assistance". Emphasis has been on improving how governments organize and manage their statistical systems, and on technical assistance and staff training in national statistics offices and ministries of agriculture. The cluster has also been involved in efforts to harmonize the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 indicators in the agriculture sector.

2. Infrastructure

9. During the reporting period, the cluster scaled up its support to member States in designing and implementing policies and programmes conducive for setting up public-private partnerships for infrastructure projects, including energy. In that regard, it delivered training on the development of a mixed energy model to Ethiopia, initiated road safety performance reviews in Cameroon and Uganda, and led campaigns and advocacy in support of the Luxembourg Rail Protocol. In addition, the cluster is supporting the development of a bioenergy

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[1] Regional integration; African Continental Free Trade Area; Single African Air Transport Market; free movement of persons; silencing the guns; gender and youth; and climate change.

[2] Strategy of support to middle-income countries; Strategic Framework to Support Resilient Development in Africa; Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework; Sahel Strategy; Strategy of support to small island developing States and Indian Ocean countries; Horn of Africa initiative; and Migration Mapping Initiative.

[3] See annex for membership of the RCM-Africa Clusters.

development strategy and investment plans for Central and Eastern Africa. As part of the annual activities to showcase the PIDA projects to stakeholders, the cluster organized the fourth PIDA Week in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, in November 2018 on the theme "PIDA Implementation through good governance – realizing smart infrastructure for Africa's Integration". Additionally, the cluster held the PIDA Policy Dialogue in Addis Ababa in December 2018 to encourage stakeholder engagement and develop a consensus-building plan with member States.

10.   The cluster continues to support the Single African Air Transport Market initiative. The regulatory and institutional texts of the Yamoussoukro Decision, which constitute the regulatory and management framework of the Single African Air Transport Market, were adopted on the margins of the thirtieth African Union Summit, held in Addis Ababa from 22 to 29 January 2018. The ministerial working group, set up to lead the establishment and operationalization of the Single African Air Transport Market, held its fourth meeting in Lomé in May 2018. An important outcome of the meeting was the adoption of a memorandum of understanding on the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision, to be signed by all signatory States of the Single African Air Transport Market. African ministers of transport, at a meeting held in Luanda in November 2011, adopted the African Road Safety Action Plan and the Luanda Declaration. In the Declaration, the third Sunday of November, which is currently the World Remembrance Day for Road Accident Victims, was proclaimed the African Road Safety Day. The cluster has also developed a special programme dedicated to national maritime transport policy to assist member States in the inclusion of maritime and shipping matters in national development plans and policies.

3.   **Human capital development, health, nutrition, science, technology and innovation**

11.   During the reporting period, the cluster in partnership with the Government of Kenya organized the Pan-African High-level Conference on Education, in Nairobi, from 25 to 27 April 2018. The Conference provided a platform for member States to exchange information on efforts aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 and implementing the Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016–2025 in support of Agenda 2063. The event allowed participants to reflect on their efforts and prepare for the Global Education Meeting, which was held in Brussels from 3 to 5 December 2018, and the High-level Political Forum to be convened in New York from 9 to 18 July 2019. Also at the Conference, the participants adopted the Nairobi Declaration and Call for Action on Education – Bridging continental and global education frameworks for the Africa We Want.

12.   The cluster organized the Innovating Education in Africa Expo 2018, which was held in Dakar from 4 to 6 October 2018. The objective of the event was to support the creation of a multi-sectoral platform for sharing experiences on relevant innovations that address the challenges facing education in Africa. In partnership with several institutions, the cluster promoted the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education Initiative, including regional training on gender-transformative science, technology, engineering and math education for French-speaking African countries, in Dakar in November 2018. The cluster supported activities organized for the African Union International Centre for Girls and Women Education in Africa's programme on out-of-school girls. The cluster also organized a consultation and experience-sharing workshop on peacebuilding and the prevention of violent extremism through education in Addis Ababa in May 2018 and supported the African Union science, technology and innovation portfolio by conducting a mid-review on the implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024,

presenting a proposal to implement a five-year science, technology and innovation programme over the period 2019–2024; and proposing strategic interventions that it may carry out.

13.   The cluster helped the African Union Commission and the Government of Gabon, through the Agence Gabonaise d'Études et d'Observation Spatiale, organize the first Global Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa Forum, which was held in Nairobi from 19 to 23 November 2018 on the theme of "Unlocking the potential of Earth observation as a key driver of Africa's sustainable development." The event, organized in response to Priority 4 of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024, was aimed at developing the continent's capacity to access and apply Earth observation applications for sustainable development. The African Union Commission launched the African Scientific, Research and Innovation Council at a conference held in Abuja, Nigeria from 27 to 29 November 2018. At the event, the Scientific Technical Research Commission was confirmed as the secretariat of the Council.

4.   Labour, employment creation, social protection, migration and mobility

14.   The cluster participated in the establishment of the High Level Panel on Migration in Africa, which gives overall guidance and support to policy dialogues in presenting the African perspective on international migration. It was involved in the process leading up to the adoption of the African Common Position on Migration. At the request of the High Level Panel, the cluster prepared a report entitled "African migration: facing facts, embracing opportunities and mitigating challenges". The report is an evidence-based tool for advocacy and sensitization activities for member States and governments, citizens, and international development partners.

15.   In March 2018, the cluster organized a seminar to analyse the current situation and measures to reduce the numbers of stowaways, in Yaoundé. The seminar developed a special programme aimed at reintegrating Somalia into the global maritime sector in the aftermath of more than two decades of civil war, which left the country's maritime sector and infrastructure in ruins. With technical assistance from the cluster, Somalia has established the Department of Maritime Administration within the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport to oversee the country's maritime sector and ensure that the International Maritime Organization conventions are adhered to. This department will play a key role in the country's efforts to combat piracy, armed robbery and other forms of criminality in the waters off the coast of Somalia, which, in turn, will ease shipping traffic in the region and facilitate global trade.

5.   Gender equality, women and youth empowerment

16.   Based on the 2017 African Union theme, "Harnessing the demographic dividend through Investments in youth", the cluster has been working on a number of key initiatives to support the implementation of the African Union demographic dividend road map. The initiatives are the following: the production of the State of the African Youth Report, which is based on the four pillars of the road map; and the production of a youth index, to be used to inform work on youth development in Africa and the Decade on Technical and Vocational Education and Training 2018–2027. Regarding the latter initiative, a strategy for the decade was developed and presented to member States during the Specialized Technical Committee Meeting on Youth, Culture and Sports, held in Algiers from 21 to 25 October 2018. The African Union Summit is expected to approve the strategy at its thirty-second ordinary session, to be held in Addis Ababa on 10 and 11 February 2019.

17.   Through an African youth fellowship programme, the cluster contributed to the development of a critical mass of skills in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation to help facilitate the implementation of

the African transformative agenda. Thirty young people from twenty-five African countries were accepted in the programme, which was housed at ECA and spanned one year ending on 30 September 2018. The fellows produced 40 research papers.

18.   In addition, the cluster, in close partnership with the African Union and the Government of Angola, supported the establishment of the Pan-African Youth Network on a Culture of Peace. Regarding gender, the African Union Commission Chairperson called for the development of a comprehensive campaign on ending violence against women and children in Africa. Through a steering committee co-chaired by the African Union Commission Women, Gender and Development Department and cluster members, a broad spectrum of United Nations and other international partners have been meeting to define the scope and nature of the campaign. The African Union Chairperson is expected to launch the campaign in 2019.

6.   Humanitarian matters and disaster risk management

19.   The cluster participated in discussions to align the global compact on refugees with the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. To further efforts to manage forced displacement in Africa, it convened two sessions of the African Union Humanitarian Law and Policy Training Programme in 2018, bringing together officials from member States in charge of forced displacement for training to exchange views on forced migration issues. The training sessions have advanced efforts to widely disseminate the African Union Model Law on the Kampala Convention. The cluster also worked with the African Union to convene the sixth African Union annual Humanitarian Symposium, which was held in Nairobi from 25 to 30 November 2018 on the theme "Refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons: towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa". The event kick-started the cluster's support to the African Union with the proposal of the 2019 theme.

20.   The cluster continued to extend capacity and technical expertise support for a broad range of humanitarian and disaster risk management initiatives to enhance the predictive, preventive, response and adaptive capabilities of the African Union within the framework of the 2016 Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness. To support countries in reporting on the Sendai Framework Monitor, the cluster organized four regional (Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Southern African Development Community (SADC)) trainings and one national (Ethiopia) training. At the subregional level, ECCAS and ECOWAS have aligned their disaster risk reduction plans of action with the Sendai Framework, while other regional economic communities are in the process of doing so. The cluster supported the African Union Commission in developing a monitoring and reporting framework for the programme of action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Africa.

7.   Environment, urbanization and population

21.   During the reporting period, the cluster supported the African Union Commission in the finalization of the sustainable forest management framework for Africa, which is expected to be adopted by African Union member States in April 2019. It has continued to provide support to the African Union Commission in the implementation of the African Wildlife Strategy, and to the Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles with regard to biodiversity conservation and in nominating biosphere reserves, and to the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative, which recently has been extended to the SADC region. The cluster, together with the African Union Commission, co-organized the Africa Day event on the margins of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Katowice, Poland, from 2 to 14 November 2018.

22.   Other areas of work include the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, meteorology and hydrology, maritime, ground water management, rainwater harvesting, and developing innovative approaches for sustainable natural resource management. The celebration of Wangari Maathai Environment Day in Niamey on 4 March 2018 offered an opportunity for environmental awareness building and advocacy. The cluster was a key collaborating partner in the organization of the seventh Africa Water Week event, held in Libreville from 29 October to 2 November 2018, on the theme "Toward achieving water security and safely managed sanitation for Africa".

23.   The cluster developed the Harmonized Regional Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the New Urban Agenda in Africa. The framework will help countries articulate the critical role of urbanization at the regional, national and subnational levels. It was endorsed by representatives of housing and urban development ministries of Africa during the third ordinary session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, held in Addis Ababa in December 2018.

24.   Cluster members were instrumental in organizing the five-year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Accra in October 2018. This was the first substantive review of the Declaration, which resulted from the 20-year review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development held in 2013. The continental report, which included a summary of trends, major lessons learned and recommendations, informed the review meeting in Accra and the final outcome, which will feed into global-level discussions. The global discussions will take place in April 2019, as part of the Commission on Population and Development. The date of the discussion is timed to mark the twentieth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action.

8.   Advocacy, information, communications and culture

25.   The cluster continues to support the implementation of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance and the revision of the Plan of Action for Cultural and Creative Industries in the context of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan for Agenda 2063 (2013–2023). Cooperation has been strengthened with INTERPOL, its SADC regional bureau and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization in preventing and combating illicit traffic of cultural property. The fifth Pan-African Cultural Congress, held in Addis Ababa in September 2018, endorsed its framework for action. It also called for the review of the African Union Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries to include contemporary approaches for the development of the African creative sector.

26.   Within the framework of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, at its thirteenth session, held in Port Louis from 26 November to 1 December 2018, added four inscriptions to the global lists of intangible cultural heritage from Africa. As a result, the total number of intangible cultural heritage elements in Africa is 59. Meanwhile, the inscription of two additional sites in African countries at the forty-second session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Manama from 24 June to 4 July 2018, brought the total number of African World Heritage Sites to 131.

9.   Governance, peace and security

27.   During the reporting period, several activities were carried out to support the implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. Under the area "preventing and mediating conflict and sustaining peace", the cluster collaborated closely with

the African Union and subregional organizations in organizing preventive diplomacy and inclusive mediation activities. The cluster also worked with the Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide to extend support to the African Union initiative to integrate indicators of atrocities into early warning systems of regional economic communities.

28.   Under the area "responding to conflict", the cluster participated in activities aimed at enhancing the African Union operational response capacity, including reviews of operational policy documents, planning trainings and field exercises; development of African standby capacity rosters for civilians and police; and improving operational planning, and accountability mechanisms. To assist in the implementation of the gender, women, peace and security agenda, the cluster provided assistance in drafting policies on conduct and discipline, and sexual exploitation and abuse. It also continued to work with the African Union in mine actions for African Union-led assessment missions to African Union member States. The United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) continued to strengthen the standby capacities of the African Union, regional economic communities and regional mechanisms to make their operations consistent with implementation of the Africa Standby Force Maputo Strategic Five-year Work Plan (2016–2020).

29.   Regarding the area "root causes and promoting resilience and development", the cluster extended support to the Lake Chad Basin Commission, through the African Union, in developing the Regional Strategy for the Lake Chad Basin Commission, which includes the reintegration of former combatants. Collaboration with the African Union also entailed support to the initiatives for entrenching alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in African Union preventive measures, as part of the measures for silencing the guns by 2020. Also, African Union-United Nations consultations on strategies for addressing peace, security and development requirement in the Sahel region are ongoing.

C.   Selected activities of the subregional coordination mechanisms

1.   Subregional Coordination Mechanism for Central Africa

30.   The Mechanism seeks to promote the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Central Africa. In this regard, during the period under review, 17 United Nations organizations and agencies worked with regional economic communities to identify projects relevant to the sustainable development and transformation of the subregion using one main criterion, linking the project(s) to thematic subgroups of the Mechanism. They identified 24 projects, from which 15 were selected. Seven other projects were presented to the donors based on their importance, potential impact and implementation readiness.

31.   The United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel is a key initiative being implemented by the United Nations and the African Union systems in Central Africa, with support from the ECA Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa, which serves as the secretariat of the Mechanism. The implementation of the strategy is expected to lead to a new positive narrative on the Sahel region, particularly in the light of opportunities for the sustainable development of the natural resources potential of the region. The Mechanism has been supporting countries of the subregion in the development and implementation of economic diversification strategies for inclusive and sustainable structural transformation.

2. Subregional Coordination Mechanism for Eastern and Southern Africa

32. The Mechanism has been assisting the African Union Commission in formulating a continental tourism strategy and establishing the African tourism organization. The main activities supporting the realization of the two initiatives are guided by the tourism action plan, which was approved by African Union Ministers during the first Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Intraregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism, held in Lomé in 2017. The Lomé Ministerial Declaration, which was adopted at the meeting, further, emphasized the urgency for these initiatives to be finalized before the next Specialized Technical Committee, scheduled for 2019. Accordingly, the cluster has started to formulate the continental strategy and drafting of statutes for the African Tourism Organization.

33. In the context of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015–2063), and the Action Plan for Implementation (2015–2030), the cluster conducted a study and held various consultations on the role of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the industrialization process in Southern Africa. It developed three policy tools to assist SADC in its plans to improve the capacities of SMEs, within the context of the regional industrialization agenda: (a) a template for developing capacities of SMEs to enhance their role in the industrialization process and regional value chains; (b) a regional framework for the development of suppliers, which focuses on building the capacities and capabilities of SMEs to participate in the implementation of the industrialization strategy and regional value chains; and (c) a regional SME support programme framework and related instruments. The study and related outcomes were used as input to the SADC Industrial Development Forum, held in November 2018. The cluster also carried out several activities in support of the SADC mining programme.

3. Subregional Coordination Mechanism for North Africa

34. The Mechanism focuses its efforts on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the subregion. For that purpose, a regional road map was adopted for the period 2018–2019, which includes the following four cross-cutting areas: understanding and ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals; public-policy integration and harmonization; building national statistical, monitoring, and reporting capacities; and leveraging South-South cooperation. The Mechanism has selected food security and employment as priority areas of work of the subregion. To that end, it organized a training workshop in December 2018 to enhance the capacity of national statistical institutions and sectoral data producers in the fields of agriculture and food security.

35. The Mechanism has also used various platforms to advocate the implementation of Agenda 2063 and demonstrated its links with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. The United Nations system organizations and agencies also worked closely in Mauritania to support the Voluntary National Review process and the United Nations system agencies helped Tunisia apply the Mainstreaming, Acceleration Policy Support and the Rapid Integrated Analysis tools in its development plan. The same exercise was conducted in Morocco within the framework of the United Nations joint programme on the Sustainable Development Goals follow-up and reporting. Additionally, it organized a meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals in North Africa during which a publication on the Sustainable Development Goals in the Maghreb region was presented and discussed. The publication was launched in November 2018 during the subregional office's Intergovernmental Committee of Experts meeting.

4. Subregional Coordination Mechanism for West Africa

36. The Mechanism is pursuing efforts to support regional economic communities to mobilize United Nations institutions around common interests,

such as monitoring progress in implementing the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics through the achievements of its core group and the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. The Mechanism is also involved in the Sahel 2043 prospective study, which is being carried out through a regional and inclusive process by the Office for West Africa for the Economic Commission for Africa. The findings of the High-Level Regional Consultation on the Regional Prospective for the Sahel, organized by the United Nations Development Programme in Dakar on 14 and 15 October 2015 are being used to inform the process.

37.   The 2018 annual meeting of Subregional Coordination for West Africa was held in Dakar in November 2018 under the theme "Mobilizing efforts to make the Sahel a driving force for development in West Africa". The meeting presented participants with the opportunity to discuss their respective activities to support development efforts in West Africa in general, and in the Sahel region, in particular. Participants called on the United Nations to make the results from prospective Sahel 2043 studies available to all development actors to build a better understanding of the aspirations of the people in the Sahel region. This will contribute significantly towards achieving the best development scenarios in the region.

III. Economic Commission for Africa support to the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism and selected African Union Assembly decisions, resolutions, and recommendations specific to the infrastructure programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

A.   African Peer Review Mechanism

38.   During the reporting period, ECA provided advisory services and capacity-building, and developed knowledge products on the African Peer Review Mechanism. Regarding the advisory services, the Commission helped Egypt and the Niger carry out their self-assessment exercises, Djibouti harmonize the African Peer Review Mechanism National Programme of Actions with national development strategies, and Sierra Leone initiate the second-generation review process. ECA provided tailor-made training to hundreds of African Peer Review Mechanism stakeholders at the national and regional levels. The courses included monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on the implementation of the National Programme of Actions in line with the Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda. In addition, ECA and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning produced a training manual based on the validated African Peer Review Mechanism Continental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System.

39.   The Economic Commission for Africa finalized a study on the potential involvement of the African Peer Review Mechanism in early warning and conflict prevention in Africa and provided a substantive contribution to the ongoing programme to strengthen the Mechanism review through the study entitled "Re-thinking the idea and original vision of the African Peer Review Mechanism". As a result, the Heads of State of the Niger and Egypt signed an African Peer Review Mechanism memorandum of understanding for launching their respective self-assessment exercises. In July 2018, the African Union Assembly repositioned the Mechanism as a tool for early warning on conflict prevention on the continent. From January 2016 until August 2018, ECA seconded a principal regional adviser to the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, who served as senior technical adviser to the Chief Executive Officer of the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat.

B.   Decision on the domestication of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Model Law in African countries

40.   In its decision 685(XXX), the African Union welcomed and endorsed the final version of the Model Law for Transboundary Infrastructure Projects (PIDA Model Law) and called on member States to consider it as "part of the tools for enhancing private sector investment in transboundary infrastructure". The Assembly also requested ECA, the NEPAD Agency and the regional economic communities to assist member States in nationalizing the Model Law within their respective national legislative bodies. To implement this decision, ECA designed a two-phase strategy consisting of sensitization and localization at national and subregional levels. The process was initiated in four countries, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Zambia, during the first phase. Drawing from the success of the first phase, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the ECA Capacity Development Division oversaw the second phase, targeting Ghana, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. In the next two phases, eight more countries will be targeted until the 16 projects endorsed by the Heads of State at the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure (DFS), which was held in Dakar on 14 and 15 June 2014, are covered.

C.   The 5 per cent Pension Funds Initiative

41.   At the Dakar Financing Summit, the participants adopted the Dakar Agenda for Action in which they called on development partners, the NEPAD Agency, regional economic communities and other stakeholders to implement the outcomes of a study conducted as part of a project carried out by ECA, Africa Investor and the NEPAD Agency aimed at increasing the investment of pension funds in African infrastructure from the current average of 1.5 per cent to 5 per cent over a period of five years. The project was kick-started with the baseline study to measure, among other aspects, the investment appetite of various funds, their size, regulatory environment and their minimum guarantee requirements. The study was presented to pension funds at the New York Stock Exchange and at a stakeholder meeting in Zimbabwe. Once finalized, ECA and partners will assist African pension funds to implement the recommendations in the report.

D.   Support to the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative

42.   The Economic Commission for Africa and partners, including regional economic communities and the African Development Bank (AfDB), helped Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan advance the completion of the LAPSSET (Lamu-South Sudan-Ethiopia) Corridor Projects through initiatives aimed at making them more attractive to private–sector investors. The Commission conducted a fact-finding mission with high-level representation from the three countries in Lamu Port. Focused proposals were made to support advocacy to speed up implementation of the project and heighten private–sector interest in it. During the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, held in Nairobi from 26 to 28 November 2018, ECA organized a side event, which was attended by ministers, private–sector investors and representatives of AfDB, regional economic communities, and civil society and non-governmental organizations.

IV. Conclusion

43.   It is evident that the United Nations system has worked closely with the African Union and its organs, including the African Union Commission, NEPAD, regional economic communities and other intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of priority regional and subregional development programmes embodied in Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. In doing so, they collaborated within the frameworks of RCM-Africa and its subregional coordination mechanisms to ensure coherence of actions for efficient and effective delivery. The secretariats of the mechanisms at regional and subregional levels have continued to provide functional support and platforms to enable them to function smoothly and to deliberate on matters related to the achievement of concrete results. The studies on strengthening the subregional coordination mechanisms, and on monitoring and evaluation in RCM-Africa are worthy of note. In its continuous quest to ensure that it is fit-for-purpose, RCM-Africa and its subregional coordination mechanisms will organize their work around the seven African Union priority areas for more targeted support. The African Union and United Nations reforms provide ample opportunity to further reposition coordination mechanisms at regional, subregional and national levels for enhanced coherence. The continued support of ECA to the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism and key continental infrastructure initiatives has contributed towards the fostering of good governance and regional integration in Africa.

Annex 1

Regional Coordination Mechanism cluster membership		
Clusters	*Clusters Titles*	*Members – United Nations Organizations and Agencies, African Union Commission and regional economic communities*
Cluster 1	Sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industry, trade, agriculture and agro-processing and regional integration	**United Nations** FAO, WFP, UNHCR, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, ECA, UNWOMEN, IOM, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNEP, ITU, UN-Habitat **African Union Commission** Trade and Industry, Economic Affairs, Rural Economy and Agriculture, Social Affairs, Human Resources Science and Technology, African Union Commission Office of Legal Counsel, Finance, Office of the DCP
Cluster 2	Infrastructure development	**United Nations** ECA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDO, UNOPS, IOM, ILO, FAO, ITU, IMO, UN-Habitat **African Union Commission** Infrastructure and Energy, Human Resources Science and Technology, Trade and Industry, Rural Economy and Agriculture, Office of Legal Counsel
Cluster 3	Human capital development, health, nutrition, science, technology and innovation	**United Nations** UNICEF, UNESCO, IICBA, WHO, UNFPA, WFP, FAO, ECA, UNIDO, UNAIDS, UNEP, ILO, UNDP, IOM, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNWOMEN, ITU, OHCHR, UNOPS **African Union Commission** Human Resources Science and Technology, Social Affairs, Infrastructure and Energy
Cluster 4	Labour, employment creation, social protection, migration and mobility	**United Nations** IOM, ILO, UNICEF, UNHCR, FAO, ECA, UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNESCO **African Union Commission** Social Affairs, Political Affairs, Women and Gender, Economic Affairs
Cluster 5	Gender equality, women and youth empowerment	**United Nations** UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, UNV, UNESCO–IICBA, FAO, UNAIDS, ILO, UNOAU **African Union Commission** Women and Gender, Human Resources Science and Technology, Social Affairs
Cluster 6	Humanitarian matters and disaster risk management	**United Nations** UNOCHA, UNISDR, UNDP-RSCA, WFP, UNICEF, UNV, FAO, UNEP, UNHCR, ECA, UNOAU, UNAIDS, ILO, IMO **African Union Commission** Political Affairs, Rural Economic and Agriculture, Economic Affairs, Social Affairs, and Peace and Security Regional economic communities: ECOWAS, COMESA, IGAD, EAC, SADC Associates: NRC-AU, ICRC-AU, IFRC-AU, OXFAM-AU, AHA, AACC, LPI, ICVA
Cluster 7	Environment, urbanization and population	**United Nations** UNEP, UNFPA, ECA, UNESCO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN-Habitat, IMO **African Union Commission** Infrastructure and Energy, Social Affairs, Trade and Industry, Human Resources, Science and Technology

Regional Coordination Mechanism cluster membership		
Clusters	*Clusters Titles*	*Members – United Nations Organizations and Agencies, African Union Commission and regional economic communities*
Cluster 8	Advocacy, information, communications and culture	**United Nations** UNESCO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, ECA, UNEP, UNHCR, UNWOMEN, UNICEF, OSAA, IMO, UNIDO **African Union Commission** Information and Communication, Social Affairs, Strategic Planning, Infrastructure and Energy
Cluster 9	Governance, peace and security	**United Nations** UNOAU, UNDP, UN Women, UNESCO, UNICEF, OCHA, OHCHR, UNHCR **African Union Commission** Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Social Affairs, Gender Directorate, Human Resources and Strategic Planning, Office of Legal Affairs, African Peer Review Mechanism

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